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HISTORY

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OF THE

PROGRESS OF POPULATION OF
THE UNITED STATES.

From 1790 to 1870. •

By EDWARD JARVIS, M.D.,

PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION.

BOSTON :

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1877.

THIS History of the Progress of the Population of the United States was written in 1872, for the eighth session of the International Statistical Congress, which was held at St. Petersburg, Russia, in August of that year.

It was printed in their volume of Transactions and distributed to the members, and to the several Governments that had sent delegates to the meeting. Although many copies were thus spread throughout Europe, very few reached America. Yet as the subject is of very great interest to the people of the United States, and has not been presented in this form to them, the American Statistical Association have thought proper to reprint it among their Transactions.

PUBLISHING COMMITTEE.

Boston, Oct. 1, 1877.

PROGRESS OF POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE territory of the United States was occupied exclusively by the Indians until the Spaniards made small settlements in Florida, in the early part of the sixteenth century. The French began a colony, in that country, about fifty years later. But neither of these flourished or grew into large populations.

The English made their first settlement at Jamestown, in Virginia, in 1608, and in Massachusetts in 1620.

Two years later, 1622, the Dutch made settlements in New York, and soon thereafter some Swedes settled in Pennsylvania.

From these times, immigrants have come from Europe. Previous to this century, these were principally from England, and with the exception of a few Dutch in New York, Swedes and Germans in Pennsylvania, Spaniards in Florida and French in Louisiana, the English occupied nearly the whole country, and they and their descendants constituted nearly the whole white population, until within fifty years.

The first Africans were brought to Virginia, in 1620, and sold as slaves; they were brought, for the same purpose, to other southern districts of the country, from that time until the end of 1807, when the importation was prohibited by law. Since that time, they have been introduced except by smuggling.

Florida was settled by the Spaniards and held by them, until 1819, when it was transferred to the United States. France first settled Louisiana in the seventeenth century, and held the country until 1760, when it was ceded to Spain. In 1800, it was transferred back to France, and, in 1803, sold to the United States. Great Britain held the rest as provinces until the war of independence, which began in 1775 and closed in 1783.

There were thirteen British Provinces, which became thirteen States at the declaration of independence in 1776. Until that period, the settlements were almost exclusively east of the Alleghany mountains and the lakes, and on the Atlantic coast. Afterwards population extended westward, and at length reached the Pacific Ocean. As fast as districts are settled, they are organized by Congress into territories, with local legislatures elected by the people, and governors and judges appointed by the president. As soon as these territories have a sufficient number of people, they are established, and admitted into the Union as States, with local self-governments and representations in Congress.

The natural increase of the population was rapid, which, with the constant immigration, created an estimated number of 434,600 people in the country in 1715, of 1,485,654 in 1754, and of 2,743,000 in 1775.

There were some actual enumerations of the people of a few States, in and after the middle of the last century, but none of the whole country until 1790.

The national constitution, or organic law, which was established in 1789, ordered that the census should be taken in every period of ten years, in such a manner as Congress shall direct. In accordance with this, there have been nine enumerations of the people—one in each decennial year. Congress has, from time to time, determined the points of inquiry and the information that should be obtained.

The results of each census have been printed by the government, and distributed freely among the people. The report of

1790 was embraced in an octavo pamphlet of less than sixty pages; that of 1860 occupied four quarto volumes, containing 2,313 pages. That of 1870 is now passing through the press, and probably will be as large as any of its predecessors.

In all, the facts as to persons, numbers, ages, etc., are stated, in respect to each town, county, and state and territory.

At the first census in 1790, there were thirteen states and two territories. The inquiry was made, as to the whites, for the number of each sex, the number of males under and over sixteen years old; as to the colored persons, the number who were free and who were slaves.

There were then whites	3,172,006
Colored, free 59,527, slaves 697,681 = .	757,208
Total population	<u>3,929,214</u>

At the second census, in 1800, there sixteen states and three territories.

The inquiry was made, as to the whites, for the number of each sex, under 10, 10 to 16, 16 to 26, 26 to 45, and over 45; and as to colored, the number who were free and who were slaves.

There were then whites	4,306,446
Colored, free 108,435, slaves 893,602 = .	1,002,037
Total population	<u>5,308,483</u>

At the third census, in 1810, there were seventeen states and seven territories. The inquiry distinguished the whites, as to sex and number in each age, and also the colored people as to freedom and bondage, all in the same manner as in 1800.

There were then whites	5,862,073
Colored, free 186,446, slaves 1,191,362 =	<u>1,377,808</u>
Total population	7,239,881

At the fourth census, in 1820, there were twenty-four states and three territories. Inquiry was made, in regard to the whites, as to sexes, the males as to ages under 10, 10 to 16, 16 to 18, 18 to 26, 26 to 45, and over 45; the females were classed

in the same manner, except that there was no class of 16 to 18, but all, 16 to 26, were included in one class. The colored, the free and the slaves, and the sexes were given separately, and each distinguished as to ages, under 14, 14 to 26, 26 to 45, and over 45.

There were then whites	7,862,166
Colored, free 233,634, slaves 1,538,022 =	1,771,656
Total population	<u>9,633,822</u>

Inquiries were also made, as to agriculture, commerce and manufactures; the number of persons engaged in each, and the amount of production; and the number of foreigners not naturalized.

At the fifth census, in 1830, there were twenty-four states and four territories. The whites of each sex were distinguished, those under twenty into quinquennial periods of age, and those over twenty into decennial periods. The colored of each sex were divided into the free and the slaves, and arranged in classes, as to age, under 10, 10 to 24, 24 to 36, 36 to 55, 55 to 100, and over 100. Inquiry was also made as to the number of foreigners not naturalized, and, among the whites, the blind and the deaf and dumb. The last were divided into classes as to age, under 14, 14 to 25, and over 25.

There were then whites	10,537,378
Colored, free 319,599, slaves 2,009,043 =	2,328,642
Total population	<u>12,866,020</u>

At the sixth census of 1840, there were twenty-six states and four territories. Both the whites and the colored were classified as to age, in the same manner as in 1830. Inquiry was made as to the blind, the insane and idiots. The insane and idiots were distinguished as to personal independence and pauperism. The white deaf mutes were arranged, as to age, as in 1830.

The numbers engaged in the great classes of employment, and the amount of production in many specific branches of industry, were ascertained and reported.

There were then whites	14,195,805
Colored, free 386,293, slaves 2,487,355 =	2,873,648
Total population	17,069,453

At the seventh census, in 1850, there were thirty-one states and seven territories.

The same inquiries were made, as to sex, age, color, personal disability, employment and production as in 1840. The same were repeated in 1860 and in 1870.

The result showed that there were then in 1850 :

Whites	19,553,068
Colored, free 434,495, slaves 3,204,313 =	3,638,808
Total population	23,191,876

At the eighth census, in 1860, there were thirty-four states and eight territories, and there were

Whites	26,922,537
Colored, free 488,070, slaves 3,953,760 =	4,441,830
Chinese	34,933
Indians	44,021
Total population	31,443,321

Slavery was abolished in 1863.

At the ninth census, in 1870, there were thirty-seven states and ten territories. The numbers of the people were :

Whites	33,589,377
Colored	4,880,009
Chinese	63,254
Indians	25,731
Total population	38,558,371

The Indians who still live in their wild state, under their own chiefs, have not been included in these enumerations. But those who adopt civilized habits, and are under the local municipal governments, are included.

In eighty years, since 1790, the white population has multiplied more than tenfold, and those of African descent more than sixfold.

TABLE I.
Increase of White Population.

Year.	Number living.	Increase in ten years.	
		Number.	Rate per cent.
1790	3,172,006		
1800	4,306,446	1,134,640	35.76
1810	5,862,073	1,555,627	36.12
1820	7,862,166	2,004,268	34.09
1830	10,537,378	2,671,037	34.02
1840	14,195,805	3,658,527	34.72
1850	19,553,068	5,357,263	37.73
1860	26,922,537	7,369,469	37.68
1870	33,589,377	6,666,840	24.76

Origin of the Population.

Immigration from abroad was the only source of population in the beginning, and the chief source during the early ages of the country. But as land was cheap, very productive, and accessible to all, labor was ever in demand and richly remunerated, and provisions were easily obtained, marriages took place early. The climate was healthy, and the people almost universally temperate and industrious. Hence the natural increase was very rapid.

Immigration.

No account nor record was made of the number of immigrants that arrived previous to October, 1819. Then and thereafter, the law of Congress required that all, who came by sea or lake, should be registered at the custom-houses. Their birth-place, age, sex, occupation and destination are recorded and reported to the government. Beside these, there were some Europeans, who came to the British Provinces and thence by land, across the border, into the United States, and also some natives of the British Provinces came in the same way. These enter at no

custom-house, and no record nor report is made of their arrival. On the contrary, some of the immigrants, who land at New York, Boston, and Portland, and are there reported, afterwards pass to Canada.

The numbers of immigrants, between 1790 and 1820, were carefully estimated by reliable observers at the time. The number of natives of the British Provinces who came across the border, unnoticed by the American officers, has been approximated by comparing the number that appear in the censuses of the United States, with the number that are reported to have arrived by sea and by lake. The number of Europeans that came through the Canadas and New Brunswick, by land, has been approximately determined, by comparing the numbers that are shown by the European emigration reports to have gone to the British Provinces, with the numbers of Europeans that were found there at their several censuses. Making deductions for the probable mortality, the surplus is supposed to have passed into the United States.

From all these records, estimates and calculations, the numbers of immigrants and of their survivors living, in the United States, were determined as follow :

TABLE II.

Immigrants Arriving.		Immigrants Surviving.	
Period.	Number.	Year.	Number.
1790 to 1800	50,000	1800	44,282
1800 — 1810	70,000	1810	96,725
1810 — 1820	114,000	1820	176,825
1820 — 1830	200,000	1830	315,830
1830 — 1840	682,112	1840	859,202
1840 — 1850	1,711,161	1850	2,240,535
1850 — 1860	2,766,495	1860	4,136,175
1860 — 1870	2,424,390	1870	5,566,546
1790 — 1870	8,018,158		

Thus it is seen that 8,018,158 strangers from abroad were added to the population of the United States, within the eighty years preceding 1871. Of these, 434,000 arrived in the first half of the period, 2,393,273 in the next twenty years, 1830 to 1850, and 5,190,885 or 64 per cent. of the whole number, came since 1850.

No separate account of the foreigners living in the United States was taken at any of the enumerations previous to 1850. The nationality of all was inquired, at that and the subsequent censuses.

The numbers of survivors at the decennial years 1800 to 1850, were calculated on a rate of 2.4 per cent. annual mortality. The results of the calculation fell short only 0.19 per cent. of the actual numbers found by the enumeration, in 1850. The mortality of these foreigners was 2.625 per cent. in the period 1850 to 1860, and 2.2 per cent. from 1860 to 1870.

Increase of Foreigners.

The increase of foreigners, during each decade, is determined by subtracting the numbers found at the beginning, from those present at the end of the period.

Subtracting this increase of foreigners from the total increase in each period, as shown in Table III., gives the natural increase or excess of births over deaths.

The basis of natural increase includes not only the numbers of those who were living at the beginning of each period, but also the immigrants after their arrival, whose families added their proportion to this growth. The number of foreigners thus added to this basis of increase was as many tenths of the arrivals as the average number of years of their chance of life, before it should end. As in the period, 1810 to 1820, there were 114,000 arrivals, distributed in equal numbers, through all the years, averaging five years chance of life, before 1820; therefore 57,000 or five tenths of the arrivals were added to 4,306,446, the number of whites living in 1810, which gives us 4,363,446 the basis of increase, in the next following decade. But as a

larger proportion of the arrivals, in the period, 1860 to 1870, were in the later years, they averaged only 4.32 years chance of life, in this period, therefore 1,047,336, or 4.32 tenths of the arrivals, are added to the 26,922,537 living in 1860, to complete the basis of natural increase in that decade.

The number and rate of decennial natural increase is determined in the following table :

TABLE III.

Increase of		Natural Increase.		
Period.	Foreigners.	Basis.	Number.	Rate.
1790 to 1800	44,282	3,197,006	1,090,158	34.09
1800 — 1810	52,443	4,363,446	1,503,179	34.45
1810 — 1820	80,100	5,919,073	1,924,148	32.50
1820 — 1830	139,005	7,966,341	2,532,032	31.78
1830 — 1840	543,372	10,834,328	3,115,145	28.74
1840 — 1850	1,381,333	14,880,359	3,975,840	26.71
1850 — 1860	1,895,640	20,936,315	5,508,763	26.31
1860 — 1870	1,430,371	28,004,807	5,179,147	18.49

Increase of Colored Population of African Origin.

The Africans were imported, from 1620 to the end of 1807, without restriction. Probably the importation, during the years 1790 to 1807 inclusive, was more active, in anticipation of the cessation of opportunity to supply the demand for this kind of labor. Even after the law prohibiting the importation of slaves took effect, January 1st, 1808, there were doubtless a few smuggled into the country, notwithstanding the vigilance of the national officers. But these were probably more than balanced by the numbers who escaped to the British Provinces. There were in Canada, in 1851, 2,113 colored persons, and in 1861, there were 8,020. Part of this difference is due to natural increase, but a much greater part is due to immigration from the

United States. From 1807, the African race in this country has depended upon the excess of births over deaths for its growth; for the numbers that came in or went out, in any other way, were so few as not to vitiate any calculations, based on this principle of increase.

The growth of the class of the free colored is due, in part, to their natural increase, and, in part, to the emancipation of slaves, and is therefore no test of their natural productive power.

But these two civil classes of the Africans, the free and the slave, and their descendants in the United States, with the few exceptions before mentioned, include all of their race in this country; and in all the calculations of numbers and increase, through the several decennial periods, from 1810 to 1870, their growth may be assumed to be due to natural causes.

TABLE IV,
Number and Increase of the Colored Population.

Living.			Increase in ten years.	
Year.	Number.	Ratio of total population per cent.	Number.	Ratio per cent.
1790	757,208	19.27		
1800	1,002,037	18.85	244,829	32.20
1810	1,377,808	19.00	375,771	37.50
1820	1,771,656	18.39	393,848	28.58
1830	2,328,642	18.09	556,986	31.39
1840	2,873,648	16.83	545,006	23.44
1850	3,638,808	15.68	765,160	26.62
1860	4,441,830	13.95	803,022	22.06
1870	4,880,009	12.65	438,179	9.87

The rate of increase of the colored population has been, in all periods, less than that of the whites.

Combining both these races, and including also the Chinese and Indian, the following table shows the number and increase of the whole population.

TABLE V.
Number and Increase of Total Population.

Living.		Increase in ten years.	
Year.	Number.	Number.	Rate per cent.
1790	3,929,214		
1800	5,308,483	1,379,269	32.55
1810	7,239,881	1,901,398	35.83
1820	9,633,822	2,393,941	33.07
1830	12,866,020	3,232,198	33.55
1840	17,069,453	4,203,433	32.67
1850	23,191,376	6,122,423	35.86
1860	31,443,321	8,251,445	35.58
1870	38,555,983	7,112,662	22.62

Foreign Origin of the Population.

Through the first two hundred years nearly all the white immigrants were from England and Scotland. Probably nine-tenths of the whites, living in 1800 and perhaps in 1820, could trace their ancestry back to Great Britain. These British immigrants formed the character of the country. They created its institutions, they established its governments, and made the English language the national speech.

After 1820, the Irish, and after 1832, the Germans came in greater numbers.

Since September, 1819, the Government has taken account of those who arrived by sea or by lake. From that date to the 1st of January, 1871, the following numbers have been recorded by the national authorities.

TABLE VI.
Nativity of Immigrants.

Great Britain	1,157,855	Asia	387
Ireland	2,700,495	Africa and Western Is-	
Sweden, Norway and		lands	8,261
Iceland	153,939	South America	7,607
Denmark	23,425	West India Islands . .	50,250
Russia and Poland . .	8,083	Mexico and Central	
Germany and Prussia .	2,368,483	America	21,216
Austria and Hungary .	9,866	British North American	
Holland and Belgium .	48,896	Provinces	284,495
France and Corsica . .	245,824	Australia and Islands of	
Switzerland	61,572	the Pacific Ocean . .	424
Italy, Sicily & Sardinia	26,903		
Spain and Portugal . .	27,909	Not specified	238,643
Greece and Turkey . .	505		
China and Japan . . .	109,761		7,553,830

The total population in 1870 included

Natives of the United States	32,996,437
Natives of other countries	5,566,546
Among the foreigners were whites	5,493,029
Colored, African origin	9,645
Chinese	62,736
Indians	1,136

The natives of other countries, living in the United States, were 9.66 per cent. in 1850, 13.15 per cent. in 1860, and 14.43 per cent. in 1870 of the whole population of the country.

All the foreigners, of every color, race, origin, are included in the following table :

TABLE VII.

Nativity of Foreigners living in the United States. 1870.

Gt. Britain, not specified	4,122	Europe, not specified .	1,546
England	550,924	Atlantic Islands	4,481
Wales	74,533	Africa	2,657
Scotland	140,835	China	63,042
Ireland	1,855,779	Japan	73
Sweden	97,332	India	586
Norway	114,246	Asia, not specified . .	864
Russia	4,644	Canada	414,912
Poland	14,436	New Brunswick	26,737
Denmark	30,107	Nova Scotia	33,562
Germany, Prussia and		Prince Edwards Island:	
Luxemburg	1,696,335	Greenland	1,364
Austria	30,508	Newfoundland	3,423
Hungary	3,737	British America, not	
Bohemia	39,654	specified	13,469
Holland	46,802	Mexico	42,021
Belgium	12,553	Central America . . .	301
France	116,402	Cuba	5,319
Switzerland	75,153	West India Islands . .	6,251
Italy and Malta	17,212	South America	3,565
Spain and Gibraltar . .	3,841	Sandwich Islands . . .	584
Portugal	4,542	Pacific Islands	326
Greece	390	Australia	3,118
Turkey	302	At sea	2,638
		Not specified	954

The children of these foreigners, born in the
United States and living June 1, 1870, both
of whose parents were foreign, were 4,168,299

The children of mixed parentage were :
of American fathers and foreign mothers . 370,982
of American mothers and foreign fathers . 786,188=1,157,170

Total children born in the United States of
either foreign parents and living in 1870 5,325,469
Natives of foreign countries 5,566,546

Total foreigners, and children of foreigners
born in the United States 10,892,015

Indians.

The Indians or copper-colored race alone occupied the whole country two-hundred and fifty years ago. They were spread sparsely over the continent, living principally by hunting and fishing, and dependent, to a small extent, upon agriculture.

From the first appearance of the Europeans the Indians have

receded before the progress of civilization, and their places are successively occupied by the Caucasian race. The American government has from time to time bought their lands, and pays for them in perpetual annuities of provisions, clothing, agricultural implements, guns, powder, medicine, etc. In all times, and everywhere, they dwindle in presence of, and in contact with, the whites. As the civilized society takes possession of and subdues the forest, the hunting grounds give place to cultivation, the Indian no longer finds his means of sustenance in the buffalo, deer, and other wild game. The remnants of the eastern tribes have gone west of the Mississippi, and there they and the original tribes are gradually wasting away. They adopt, in some measure, the habits of civilization. A few cultivate a little land and raise grain. Yet they generally prefer the wild life of the hunter, and live on such game as they may find. They have their own chiefs and govern themselves in their own rude, savage way. The American government has agents among them to look after their interests and protect them. They pay no taxes, they form no part of the body politic. They are not included in the decennial censuses of the people. Yet the government agents from time to time report their numbers as near as they can be ascertained. The last report represents that, in 1870, there were 357,981 who held to their tribal relations and retained their wild independence. Every age shows a decreasing number, and unless they change their habits and arrest the course of national or tribal decay, before many generations shall pass the whole race will disappear and be known only in history.

Respectfully submitted to the International Statistical Congress, by

EDWARD JARVIS,

President of the American Statistical Association.

Dorchester, Massachusetts, United States, North America,

June 11, 1872.